(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better Indo-China relations;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the response of the Government of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality. This has been underscored during recent high level political exchanges between India and China, including during the visit of President to China in May-June, 2000, visit of senior Chinese leader and NPC Chairman in January 2001, visit of Chinese Premier in January, 2002, visit of EAM to China in March/April, 2002 and the visit of Speaker to China in January, 2003.

Relations between India and China have continued to develop and diversify. Important developments marking the prog ess of India-China relations include the initiation of direct Delhi-Beijing flights, the first meeting of the India-China dialogue mechanism on counter-terrorism, the completion of the process of exchange of maps for clarification of the Line of Actual Control in the Middle Sector, the implementation of the MoU on sharing hydrological data from the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra and accordance of Approved Tourist Destination Status to India by China.

Bilateral trade has continued to grow smoothly. Exchanges of functional delegations and defence delegations also progressed. Both sides have underlined their commitment to continue to develop their relations while simultaneously continuing to address their differences through dialogue.

Relationship with China

1005. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by Government during the last three months to improve political, cultural, economic and trade relations with China, in the context of growing closer Chinese relations with Bangladesh, Myanmar and other neighbouring States contiguous to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality.

Relations between India and China have continued to develop and diversify. Important developments in the last three months marking the progress of India-China relations, *inter alia,* include: the 14th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group held in New Delhi on 21st November, 2002; MoU on Approved Destination Status for Chinese tourists signed during the visit of Mr. He Guangwei, Chairman, China National Tourism Authority during 7-12 December, 2002; visit of a Parliamentary delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha to China from 5-10 January, 2003; visit of a delegation led by Mr. Sheng Huaren, Chairman of India-China Friendship Group of the National People's Congress to participate in the International Parliamentary Conference to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Parliament from 22-24 January, 2003; visit by Mr. An Min, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation to attend CII's International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF) from 5-8 February, 2003 and the third meeting of the India-China Eminent Persons' Group held in New Delhi from 13-14 February, 2003.

Bilateral trade has continued to grow smoothly. Exchanges of functional delegations and defence delegations also progressed. Both sides have underlined their commitment to continue to develop their relations while simultaneously continuing to address their differences through dialogue.

Shifting of ISI training camps from PoK

1006. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has allowed Allied Forces to carry on hunt from across the Afghan border into Pakistan territory in pursuit of Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a sequel to this, ISI has shifted several militant training camps from PoK to other areas; and